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on behalf of the fund for liquidating the debt on this place of worship. The programme contained selections from *The Messiah*, *Creation*, *Elijah*, *Judas Maccabæus*, Mozart's *Twelfth Mass*, &c. &c. The soloists were Miss Thurloe, the Misses Teede, Mrs. Southwood, Mr. W. Garrad, Mr. Edwin Potter, and Mr. J. G. Bowler, assisted by a choir of sixty voices, conducted by Mr. J. R. Chapman. Mr. W. S. Young was announced to sing some solos, but was prevented by severe indisposition. Mr. Edwin Potter and Mr. Robert Coleman presided at the organ.

ON Monday, the 9th ult., a concert was given by Miss Isa Thompson, at the Marlborough-House Grammar School, Spa Road, Bermondsey, which was attended by a large and fashionable audience. The following *artistes* appeared on the occasion: Miss Mary Ann Potter, Miss Annie Howard, Miss Watkins, and Miss Isa Thompson; Messrs. E. Bernard. F. Howett, and W. Lawrence Tomlins; assisted by a chorus of nearly fifty voices. Conductor, Mr. A. Chipperfield; pianist, Mr. F. Cozens.

A CONCERT took place at the Vestry Hall, Chelsea, on the 16th ult., in aid of St. Mary's Orphanage. The *artistes* were Miss Palmer, Madame Helen Percy, and Mr. F. Penna; Messrs. Lazarus, Lidel, Deichmann, and J. H. Sheppard. Miss Banks was announced, but through indisposition could not appear. The only *encores* of the evening were awarded to Madame Percy, Mr. Lazarus, and Herr Deichmann. Herr W. Ganz conducted.

A NEW YEAR'S musical entertainment was given on the evening of the 10th ult., at Portman Hall, Edgware Road, in connexion with the congregation and friends of New Church-Street Chapel, under the direction of the organist, Mr. T. Norris. The programme consisted of a rich variety of songs, duets, choruses, &c., all being exceedingly well rendered. Miss C. E. Walker presided at the pianoforte.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our Correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes which may occur.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

A Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.

Brief Summary of Country News.

ANDOVER.—The Andover Choral Society gave its second concert of vocal music on Wednesday, the 28th of Dec., in the Town Hall. The programme consisted chiefly of glees, madrigals, and part-songs, a few solos and duets being introduced in the second part of the concert. The whole of the music was admirably sung, and the concert was one of the most successful ever given in this town. Mr. Snary conducted.

BEESTON.—On Tuesday evening, the 3rd ult., a concert of vocal and instrumental music was given in the Boys' National School-room. Mr. H. Farmer presided at the pianoforte; Messrs. F. Kirkby and Hayward being the principal instrumental performers, and Mrs. Freestone the principal vocalist. The programme contained a selection of overtures, anthems, instrumental solos, and songs by the best composers, all of which were executed in a manner which did the performers credit, and gave great pleasure to the audience. The proceeds will be appropriated to the liquidation of expenses incurred by improvements made in the village churchyard.

BLETCHINGLEY.—On Thursday evening, the 29th of Dec., Mr. L. S. Palmer gave a concert at the School-room. The principal *artistes* were Mrs. Sydney Smith, Miss Palmer Lisle, Mr. Fuller, and Mr. W. Moir. The programme consisted of songs, quartets, glees, &c., all of which were well rendered. Miss Palmer presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. L. S. Palmer conducted.

BRIERLEY HILL.—A miscellaneous evening concert took place in the Wesleyan School-room, on Monday, the 19th of Dec., in aid of the Ragged School. The vocalists were Miss Homer, Messrs. Cooper, Gittings, Homer, and Wright. Mr. J. Randle accompanied, and Mr. Cooper conducted.

BUCKHURST HILL.—A concert was given on the 13th ult., in the Room adjoining the "Bald-faced Stag." The choir consisted of seventeen members selected from the Hullah Choral Society, who, under the direction of their conductor, Mr. Constantine, executed the part-music most efficiently. The principals were Miss Lizzie Robertson, Miss Green, Mr. Constantine, Mr. George Richardson; and Miss Fanny Howell, pianiste. This concert was one of a series of entertainments given for the purpose of raising a fund for the erection of a Lecture Hall.

BURSLEM.—A new Organ, built by Messrs. Foster and Andrews for the United Methodist Free Church, was opened on Tuesday, the 17th ult., by Mr. Best, of Liverpool. The choir, assisted by a number of the best vocalists in the neighbourhood, sang several choruses, &c., from the oratorios. The vocal part of the concert was under the direction of Mr. Aaron Bates.

CHEPSTOW.—On Thursday evening, Dec. the 29th, Mr. C. Wilkes, organist of the parish church, gave a concert at the Assembly Room. The first part consisted of a selection from the oratorios, and the second part of a selection of glees, &c. The principal vocalists were Miss Pritchard, Messrs. Herbert, Wilkes, and Turner. Conductor and pianist, Mr. Wilkes.

CLUN.—The members of the Church Choir, assisted by their friends, gave their first amateur concert on Wednesday, Dec. the 28th. The programme consisted of selections from the works of Handel, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Kreutzer, D'Albert, &c. Mr. R. Bartholomew, of Ludlow, was conductor, and Mrs. Covernton, of Knighton, very efficiently presided at the pianoforte.

DEPTFORD.—A concert was given at the Lecture Hall by the Concordia Society, on Monday, the 23rd ult., at which Miss Lizzie Wilson, Madame Percy, Madame Gordon, Mr. S. Walker, Mr. C. Turner, and Mr. George Tedder assisted. There were several *encores*, one being a new song, entitled "Be sure," sung by Miss Lizzie Wilson in her usual effective style.

DUBLIN.—The fourth grand concert of the St. Andrew's Vocal Association took place on the 2nd ult., in the Andrean Female School. An excellent selection of music was performed; and we must especially mention the success of the solo singers, Miss O'Meara, Miss Garvie, and Miss Carroll, who were all members of the Association. The concert, which was for the benefit of the Andrean Orphanage, was under the direction of Mr. D. Nolan, who was presented with a justly-merited testimonial on his appointment to the Galway Model School, and consequent retirement from the Association. Mr. O'Brien presided at the pianoforte with great ability.——The first concert of the Harmonic Society of St. Cecilia for the season, was given on Thursday evening, the 19th ult., in the Antient Concert Rooms, Great Brunswick Street, under very favourable auspices. The first part of the programme consisted of Haydn's Grand Mass in C, No. 2, which was excellently rendered by a full orchestra and chorus numbering over 150 performers. The second part consisted of various selections, including two pieces (one a chorus, by Bruges, and the other a cantata, by Loreto Jaccovacci), with orchestral accompaniment by Mr. Glynn, who conducted with his usual ability.

The leader on the occasion was Mr. Healy, who played an air with variations, by Mayseder, which was rapturously encored.

Dumfries.—The first public concert of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Choral Society took place in the Mechanics' Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 27th of Dec. In a few suitable remarks, Mr. Harkness, the president of the society, initiated the proceedings; and after he left the platform, Mr. Shuker, the conductor, commenced the concert by playing the overture to the *Caliph of Bagdad;* the members of the society then gave the anthem "In Jewry is God known," with orchestral accompaniment. The remainder of the programme consisted of songs, glees, choruses, &c. The soloists were Miss Young, Miss Helen Hammond, Miss Robson, Master Tallentire, and Messrs. Shanks and Ingram.

Garforth.—On Wednesday evening, Dec. the 28th, a performance of Handel's *Messiah* was given in the Parish School-room, by the Church Choir, assisted by the Choir from Whitkirk. The two choirs were ably conducted by Mr. E. W. Robinson, the teacher of the Garforth choir, under whose tuition the members have attained to considerable efficiency. The principal soprano was Miss Briggs, of Halton, Leeds, who possesses a rich voice of great flexibility and compass. The rest of the songs were taken by members of the two choirs, and were ably accompanied on the harmonium by Mr. T. Cawthra, organist of South Parade Chapel, Leeds.

Gloucester.—Mr. Abraham Thomas, of Lincoln's Inn Chapel Choir, London, has been appointed to the Bass vacancy in the Cathedral Choir.

Hebden Bridge.—On the 28th of December, the Harmonic Society, assisted by friends from some of the best musical societies in West Yorkshire, performed Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*, in Mr. Lester's large Room, which was tastefully decorated with national flags, evergreens, &c. The orchestra consisted of about 100 performers. Principal vocalists: Misses Tankard, Croft, and Wood; Messrs. Ashworth, Horsfall, Sutcliffe, Foster, and Chadwick. Mr. Frobesher, leader; and Mr. Law, conductor.

Isle of Cumbræ.—The Choral Society gave a concert of sacred music on the 2nd ult., and fully deserved the frequent and hearty applause of the audience by their careful and intelligent rendering of the thoroughly sterling music set forth in the programme. Conspicuous for spirit and precision were the choruses, "O thou that tellest," "Lift up your heads," and "Hallelujah! Amen," (Handel) and "Be not afraid," from the *Elijah;* and for delicacy and expression, the lovely Terzetto from the same oratorio.

Leeds.—The annual performance of the *Messiah* by the Leeds Town Hall Concert Society, attracted a numerous audience on Christmas Eve. The principal singers were Madame Weiss, Miss Helena Walker, Miss Carrodus, Mr. Inkersall, and Mr. Weiss. The singing of Miss Walker in "Rejoice greatly" created a marked effect; and Mr. Inkersall gave the whole tenor music with much true musical feeling. The band was led by Mr. Haddock; Mr. Dodds was chorus master; Mr. Bowling (in the absence, from domestic affliction, of Mr. S. Reay, of Bury), officiated at the organ; and Dr. Spark conducted.

Leek.—The new organ, presented to the Congregational Church by Messrs. Joshua and John Brough, and built by Messrs. Kirtland and Jardine, of Manchester, was opened on the 22nd of December by Mr. Henry Hiles, of Manchester. The music was specially selected to show the capabilities of the organ, and included some of the best compositions of the most classical writers for the instrument. In every respect the result was exceedingly satisfactory, the full and rich tone wanting but that mellowness which time only can give it. The fine arabesque painting of the front was particularly admired.

Leicester.—The Mechanics' Institute Committee have commenced a series of literary and musical entertainments, of which the seventh took place on Saturday evening, Dec. 24th. Misses Deacon, Clowes, and Wykes, Mrs. Weale, Messrs. Crow, Wykes, and Oldershaw, have presided at the pianoforte; and Mrs. Weale, Misses Deacon, Clowes, R. Christian, and Hopkins, Mrs. J. Laundon, and Messrs. Oldershaw, Carter, Wykes, Wagstaff, Wood, and Waddington, have assisted as vocalists.——The fifth of a series of six popular concerts, conducted by Herr Ptacek, took place on Dec. 19th. In that of the 12th, an Orpheus Union, newly-formed in this town, took part, performing choruses and part-songs by Mendelssohn, Gounod, &c., with considerable effect.

Liverpool.—The Christmas performance of the *Messiah* was given on the 26th Dec., at St. George's Hall; the principal vocalists being Miss Armstrong, Miss Carrodus (who made a most successful first appearance), Mr. Graham, and Mr. T. J. Hughes. The Oratorio was exceedingly well performed; and, as the concert was for the purpose of clearing off an old liability connected with the Vocal Union, we are glad to add that the Hall was nearly full. Mr. Best accompanied on the organ, and Mr. Armstrong conducted.

Newport (Monmouth).—On Monday morning, December 26th, Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*, was given at the Stow Hill Baptist Chapel, in aid of the Organ Fund. The principal vocalists were Miss Bennett and Mrs. Skeaf, of Liverpool, Mr. Thomas Hunt, of the Chapel Royal, Windsor, and Mr. H. J. Groves. Organist, Mr. J. A. Matthews, of Gloucester. In the evening a miscellaneous concert was given by the same *artistes* at the Town Hall.

North Walsham.—On Tuesday, the 3rd ult., the members of the North Walsham Choral Society held their annual tea meeting in the Wesleyan Chapel, where a goodly number of friends presented themselves to do honour to the good things provided. Tea being over, the chairman, the Rev. J. Turvey, addressed the meeting, after which the members performed a fine selection of sacred music, from *Elijah, Eli, Saul, Joshua, Dettingen Te Deum, Joseph*, &c. &c., in an excellent manner. The soloists were Miss Haggith, Messrs. Hewitt, Haggith, Earl, and Frankland. The whole was under the conductorship of Mr. J. T. Mower, who presided at the harmonium with his usual good taste and ability.

Pensnett.—The choir of Pensnett Church assisted by members of various choirs in the neighbourhood, gave a performance of the *Messiah* in the Church School-Room, on Tuesday, the 3rd ult. The soloists were Miss Homer, Messrs. Pagett, T. Cooper, and Mainwaring. The Rev. C. J. Atherton, B.A., conducted, and Mr. Randle accompanied on the harmonium and pianoforte.

Penzance.—The *Messiah* was performed on Tuesday, the 10th ult., by the members of the Penzance Choral Society, the solo singers, members of the choir, and orchestra, being all residents of the town. We have much pleasure in recording that the proceeds of the concert amounted to nearly £100, a result which must be extremely gratifying to Mr. J. H. Nunn, the zealous and indefatigable conductor of the Society.

Pontypool (near Cardiff).—A grand miscellaneous concert took place on Tuesday evening, Dec. the 27th, before a numerous and fashionable audience. Mrs. Skeaf and Miss Bennett, of Liverpool, Mr. Thomas Hunt, and Mr. Groves, were the vocalists; and Mr. J. A. Matthews, of Gloucester, accompanyist.

Porth (Pontypridd).—A very excellent concert was given at this place on the 30th of Dec., by Miss Isabel Morgan (a pupil of Mr. E. Lawrance, Cerddor Tydvil), who is only ten years of age, assisted by Miss Watts, of the Royal Academy of Music, London; Miss Thomas, of Cardiff; Miss Forey, Merthyr; Mr. D. Griffiths, Aberdare; Mr. S. Evans, Cardiff; Mr. R. Morgan, Porth; and the Porth Choir. The soloists acquitted them-

selves admirably, and the choir sang with precision and energy. Mr. Lawrance, the rising pianist and composer, presided at the pianoforte; Miss Morgan also astonished the audience by the perfect manner in which she executed two rather difficult solos on the same instrument. We have no doubt that under the able instructions of Cerddor Tydvil, this young lady will become a very brilliant pianoforte performer. The concert was a great success, both in a pecuniary sense and a musical point of view, the British School-rooms being crammed, and the singing and playing good.

RIPON.—Two concerts were given in the Town Hall, on the 6th ult., by Miss Maria Wilson, of St. Stephen's Choir, Hull; and Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner, of York.

RYDE (Isle of Wight).—On Sunday, the 8th ult., the organ in St. James's Church was opened, it having for some time past been undergoing repairs by the firm of Forster and Andrews, of Hull, who have introduced some very sweet solo stops, which were shown to great advantage by Mr. A. Godwin Fowles, organist of St. Thomas's, Portsmouth.

SUTTON COLDFIELD.—On Friday, Dec. the 30th, a concert of sacred music was given in the Town Hall. The programme for the evening consisted of selections from *The Messiah*. The principal vocalists were Miss Joesbury, Mr. Booth, Mr. Gilbert, and Mr. Pountney, who were assisted by a band and chorus of about fifty performers, conducted by Mr. Worton. Miss Fisher accompanied throughout with great taste and skill.

TEIGNMOUTH (South Devon).—On Thursday, the 5th ult., the members of the Philharmonic Society, assisted by members of similar societies in Exeter and Newton, performed Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*, at the Assembly Rooms. The orchestra and chorus numbered 160 performers. Miss Charlotte Linter presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. Chappell at the harmonium. The recitatives and airs were executed with much taste and sweetness by Miss Bailey, Mrs. W. R. Templer, Miss Chappell, and Messrs. Hawley, Reed, and Trueman. The choruses throughout were admirably given, being well sustained in the several parts, and sung with an amount of accuracy and precision that reflects the highest credit upon the society and its very able conductor, Mr. Edwin Linter. The performance elicited much applause from a very large and highly respectable audience.

THORNBURY (Bristol).—A very successful concert was given in the National School-Rooms, on Friday evening, Dec. the 30th, by the Church Choir, who had been well trained by the organist, Mr. J. T. Chambers. The programme consisted of songs, glees, part-songs, &c., most of them being encored. Mr. G. E. Chambers conducted, and Mr. J. T. Chambers accompanied.

TORQUAY.—The clergy and the members of the choir of St. John's Church presented a testimonial, together with a handsome marble time-piece, to Mr. John Abram, the organist, as a token of their esteem, and as an acknowledgement of his zeal and proficiency in training the choir, and improving the musical portions of the services of the church. The presentation was made by the Rev. F. G. Bullock, at the annual supper given to the choir in St. John's School-room, on the 5th ult.

WITHINGTON.—The Withington Choral Union, assisted by Miss Price and Miss Busby, gave a miscellaneous concert on Monday evening, the 9th ult., in the large room of the Public Hall and Library, when, notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, there was a crowded and attentive audience. The programme consisted of songs, duets, glees, quartetts, part-songs, &c., most of which were rendered with effect and spirit. Mr. F. Busby conducted, and Mr. A. C. Webber presided at the pianoforte.

WORCESTER.—The Festival Choral Society gave its first concert of the season at the Music Hall, on the 5th ult., when Handel's *Messiah* was performed with orchestral accompaniments, the band being led by Messrs. H. Blagrove, Zerbini, R. Blagrove, and Aylward. The principal vocalists were Miss Westbrook and Messrs. Hodges, Smith, and Price, of the Cathedral Choir, whose execution of the parts allotted to them gave much satisfaction. Mr. Hodges was unfortunately suffering from a cold, which prevented his singing some of the solos. The admirable rendering of the choruses shewed the training and efficiency of the choir. Mr. Caldicott presided at the harmonium; and Mr. Done, director of the society, conducted.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. G. Edmund Lister, to St. Peter's Church, Old Windsor.——Mr. A. King, to St. Michael-and-All-Angels, Brighton.

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